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A

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SMALL TERRITORIES

Rapporteur: Mr. José ACOSTA-FRAGACHAN (Venezuela)

TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

A. Consideration by the Subcommittee

1. The Subcommittee considered the question of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands at its 626th to 628th, 635th and 638th meetings, between 28 May and 2 August 1991.

2. During its consideration of the item, the Subcommittee had before it the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the Territory (A/AC.109/1062).

3. The Subcommittee conducted a thorough review of the political, economic and social conditions in the Territory in the light of the information contained in the working paper prepared by the Secretariat, as well as information furnished by a petitioner who appeared before the Subcommittee.

B. Adoption of the report

4. Having carefully examined the situation in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Subcommittee adopted by consensus a draft resolution on the Territory at its 638th meeting, on 2 August 1991, for consideration by the Special Committee (see para. 6).

5. The Subcommittee adopted the present report at the same meeting.

C. Draft resolution

6. The Subcommittee submits the following draft resolution concerning the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands for consideration by the Special Committee:

The Special Committee,

Referring to part A of the omnibus resolution on small Territories,

Taking note of the Trusteeship Agreement concluded between the Administering Authority and the Security Council with regard to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, 1/

Mindful that, under Article 83 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Security Council shall exercise all functions of the United Nations relating to strategic areas, including the approval of the terms of the trusteeship agreements and of their alteration or amendment,

Confident that special attention will continue to be given by the Security Council to the full implementation of all provisions of the Trusteeship Agreement,

Noting that the Administering Authority has taken measures to distribute the financial payments for unpaid war damage claims to the people of the Trust Territory and expressing the hope that all remaining claims will be settled in the near future,

Bearing in mind the right of the people of the Trust Territory to oppose the presence of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons in areas under their territorial jurisdiction,

1. Reaffirms the importance of ensuring that the people of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands fully and freely exercise their inalienable rights and that the obligations of the Administering Authority under the Trusteeship Agreement 1/ and the Charter of the United Nations are duly discharged;

2. Takes note of the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 683 (1990) on 22 December 1990, by which it determined, in the light of the entry into force of the new status agreements for the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands, that the objectives of the Trusteeship Agreement had been fully attained, and that the applicability of the Trusteeship Agreement had terminated, with respect to those entities;

3. Expresses the hope that Palau, the only remaining Territory under the Trusteeship Agreement, will be able to complete the process of exercising its right to self-determination in due course;

4. Takes note of the fact that the Trusteeship Council, at its fifty-eighth session, welcomed the assurance of the Administering Authority that it was prepared to assist the Government of Palau, at its request, in any appropriate endeavour leading to the final determination of a political status of Palau, in accordance with the free choice of its people 2/ and calls upon the Administering Authority to discharge its responsibilities in that connection, in strict conformity with the provisions of the Charter, particularly Article 83, and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

5. Urges the Administering Authority to assist the maritime authorities of the Trust Territory in strengthening the existing legislation concerning the exploitation, management and conservation of a 200-mile exclusive economic zone and reaffirms its conviction that the rights of the people of Palau over such a zone should be respected and that they should receive all benefits deriving from it;

6. Stresses the need to preserve the cultural identity and heritage of the people of Palau and calls upon the Administering Authority to take all necessary steps towards that end;

7. Takes note of the interest of the people of the Trust Territory in the creation of a nuclear-free zone in the Pacific.

Notes

1/ Trusteeship Agreement for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (United Nations publication, Sales No. 1957, VI.A.1).

2/ T/L.1278, annex, para. 3.